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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,907	07/15/2003	Kiyohito Koide	03405/LH	8954
1933	7590	03/14/2005	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC			PAK, SUNG H	
767 THIRD AVENUE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
25TH FLOOR				
NEW YORK, NY 10017-2023			2874	

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/620,907	KOIDE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sung H. Pak	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0703</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

Information disclosure statement filed 7/15/2003 has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cox (US 6,125,227).

Cox discloses an optical fiber end face cleaner with all the limitations set forth in the claims, including: at least one elastic base ('12' Fig. 1; column 4 lines 30-32: since the element '12' can be a semi-rigid plastic, it fully anticipates an "elastic base" as claimed); having one flat surface of a predetermined size and a predetermined thickness in a direction perpendicular to the surface (Fig. 1); at least one adhesive layer formed on a predetermined area of a surface ('16' Fig. 1) for allowing the end face of the optical fiber to be pressed against the surface of the adhesive layer (column 4 lines 39-58).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Optical fiber end cleaners are well known in the art. Kanayama et al. (US 5,220,703) discloses an optical fiber end face cleaner having a strip of cleaning cloth disposed on top of an elastic member (Fig. 7a, 7b), the cleaning cloth wound on a supply reel and enclosed in a casing. Lytle et al. (US 2004/0033050 A1) and Sun et al. (US 2004/0005134 A1) disclose optical fiber end cleaning devices having components for delivering fluids to fiber ends for fluid cleaning. Gerhard (US 6,821,025B2) discloses an optical fiber end cleaner having a interface component for delivering pressurized gas and solvent to the fiber ends for cleaning.

As discussed above, the use of adhesives for cleaning optical fiber ends is known in the art. In addition to Cox, Selli et al. (US 6,086,263) discloses an optical fiber end cleaner having adhesive tapes wound on a reel (Fig. 8) and made taut by rollers '186' and '184' so as to make contact with the optical fiber ends. In addition, Bylander (US 5,381,498) discusses cleaning the end of the optical fiber connector with pressure-sensitive adhesive (column 3 lines 53-54).

However, none of the prior art fairly teaches or suggests such an optical fiber end cleaner having, *inter alia*, sequentially laminated optical fiber end face cleaner units, having one unit adhered to the back of another unit such that each of the laminated unit are peeled off one by one from the foremost unit side, as taught and claimed in the instant application.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sung H. Pak whose telephone number is (571) 272-2353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, 9AM-5PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sung H. Pak
Examiner
Art Unit 2874

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